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THE OBSERVATOR.

The Jacobites *deny King* William *to be King of* England. *Of their Reflections on the Revolution. The Doctrines of* Paſſive-Obedience *and* Non-Reſiſtance *Confuted from Scripture.*

From Saturday October the 2d, to Wednesday October the 6th, 1703.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, I have brought you not one Word of News this time; and therefore I would beg the Favour of you to entertain the Company with ſome Remarks on the Behaviour, and Writings of the *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers*. In their Peuniworth of Scandal, they ſay *That King* James *was never call'd to Account by Parliament, but voluntary Deſerted his Kingdoms, and having left the Throne vacant, it was the Buſineſs of the Great Council of the Nation to fill it with his Eldeſt Daughter, to prevent Anarchy and Confuſion, which they Glorioufly Accompliſh'd.* Pray, Sir, what is the meaning of this?

Obſ. The meaning of this, and every thing thoſe People do, is to Reproach and Belye the Revolution, in order to the Advancement of the Intereſt of their little *Perkin* at St. *Germains:* What a Confounded Lye is here; *That they did not call King James to an Account?* Do but read the Declaration of the Lords and Commons, and ſee the Articles againſt that Unhappy Prince, and then you'll be convinc'd of the contrary to what theſe Men aſſert. They could not account with him in Perſon, becauſe he was gone and left the Key under the Door; and therefore the Lords of the Soil, took the forfeited Regalities of the Crown to themſelves, and afterwards diſpoſed of them as they thought fit. In caſes of *Bankruptcy*, I hope the *Statute* does account with the *Creditor*, notwithſtanding he has withdrawn himſelf into Foreign parts; and our *Gazette* gives us often Accounts of the *Aſſignees* in the Statutes taking *Dividends* of the Bankrupts Eſtate; tho' he be abſent: They do not inſiſt upon hearing the Perſon; the Law lays hold on the Forfeiture, as the People of *England* did in the Caſe of King *James*. What a confounded Lye is it, to ſay the Parliament fill'd the vacant Throne with the Eldeſt Daughter of King *James?* When they left Room enough in it for her Husband to ſit by her, and gave him the upper Hand into the Bargain, by placing the Adminiſtration of the Government in the Perſon of the Prince of *Orange*: They are the very Words of the Lords and Commons. *And that the Sole and Full Exerciſe of the Regal Power be only in, and Executed by the ſaid Prince of* Orange. And the Reaſons hereof are given by them in the Preamble to their Reſolve, as follows; *Having therefore an intire Confidence, that This his ſaid Highneſs, the* Prince of Orange, *will perfect the Deliverance ſo far Advanced by him, and will ſtill preſerve them from the Violation of their Rights, which they have here Aſſerted, and from all other Attempts upon their* Religion, Rights, *and* Liberties. Theſe are the Reaſons of the *Lords* and *Commons*, for making the *Prince of Orange*, King *of England*; and after the Death of Queen *Mary*, that Bleſſed Saint, now in *Heaven*, King *William*, Sat in the Throne Himſelf, to the Day of His Lamented Death. And, pray, where then was the *Hereditary Right*, and *Succeſſion* in the Right Line? Unleſs theſe Gentlemen can prove that King *William* was the Natural Iſſue of King *James*, becauſe he Married his Eldeſt Daughter: And, I'll aſſure you, they have made many ſuch Conſequences in their Writings. But, in ſhort, Honeſt *Country-man*, are we not come to a fine paſs, when the Enemies of the *Queen* and *Government*, ſhall take the Liberty to Belie the proceedings of our *Parliament*, in things Tranſacted but a few Years ago, in Defiance of the High Authority of *Parliament*, and of the *Queens* Right, who is the Incomparable and Glorious *Queen* of the *Revolution*, and can be ſupported in Her Government only by *Revolution Principles*? And we have Men enough in *England*, of thoſe Principles, to keep Her Majeſty in the Throne, againſt all the *Jacobites*, *Tantivy-Prieſts*, and *High-Flyers*, in the Univerſe.

Country-m. And then, I hope, we have enough in the *Houſe of Commons*, that were Members upon the *Revolution*, and that Voted the Throne Vacant, and that Fill'd it with the Prince and Princeſs of *Orange*, and Settled the Succeſſion of the Crown, after their Deceaſe, on the Princeſs *Ann* of *Denmark*, now our Soveraign Lady: I ſay, I hope we have enough of theſe Living, and in the Houſe, to juſtifie their Proceedings in this Point againſt the Calumnies, and Lies of Factious Perſons, who ſay King *William* was never King of *England*. I am but a *Country-man*; yet I know what's what, and can ſee thro' the thin Diſguiſes of theſe Men. Let me go into what *Coffee-Houſe* I will at *London*, I can find a parcel of theſe People Preaching up the Doctrines of *Paſſive-Obedience*, and *Non-Reſiſtance*. I am well ſatisfied that neither our Anceſtors, nor have we our ſelves own'd, and acted according to thoſe Doctrines; and yet theſe Men ſay thoſe Doctrines are warranted by the Word of God, and the Examples of Perſons, therein Recorded. Pray, Sir, what is your Opinion in this Point?

Obſ. And ſo they make our State to be Unchriſtian, and Antiſcriptural; this is much of a piece with their other Writings. I could give you Inſtances enough in Scripture to the contrary of what they aſſert. One very good one we have in the 3d of *Daniel*. *When* Nebuchadnezzar, *the King had made an Image of Gold, he Commanded that all the* Princes, *the* Governours, *and the* Captains, *the* Judges, *the* Treaſurers, *the* Councellours, *the* Sheriffs *and all the Rulers of the Provinces, ſhould come to the Dedication thereof; and that at what time they heard the ſound of the* Cornet, Flute, Harp, Sackbut, Pſaltry, Dulcimer *and all kinds of Muſick, that they ſhould fall down, and Worſhip the the Golden Image*; All the Officers were for *Paſſive-Obedience*, and fell down and Worſhip'd, according to the Kings Command, except *Shadrach*, *Meſhach* and *Abednego*, who reſiſted the Unlawful Commands of the King. Whereupon they were Examined before the King, and charged with *Diſloyalty* in breaking the Kings Commands, and again required to fall down and Worſhip the *Golden Image*. Here was a Reduplication of the Command, with the ſevere Penalty of being caſt into a Burning Fiery Furnace, upon *Non-Compliance* therewith.

Now ſee their Anſwer to the King in Verſes 16. 17. 18. of the ſame Chapter. *O* Nebuchadnezzar, *we are not careful to anſwer thee in this Matter: If it be ſo, our God whom we ſerve, is able to deliver us from the Burning Fiery Furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine*

thine Hand, O King: But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy Gods, nor Worship the Golden Image which thou hast set up. Now according to the Doctrines of *Passive-Obedience*, and *Non-Resistance*, these three Men were all of 'em Rebels, and much more so, because they were chief Officers under the King, being *Ministers*, and *Superintendants* over the Affairs of the Province of *Babylon*: But to shew that God did own the Justness of their Cause, in Resisting the unjust Commands and Will of their Prince, he work'd one of the greatest Miracles, that we read of in the Old Testament, for their Deliverance. The Furnace was ordered to be heated, *One seven times more than it was wont to be heated*; and so exceeding hot was it, *that the Flames of the Fire Slew those Men that took up* Shadrach, Mashach, *and* Abednego. From hence give me leave, by the way, to Note, that this has been the common Fate of such as Execute the *Arbitrary* Designs of their Princes; the Mischiefs they are to Execute on others fall on their own Heads: We have often found this true in *England*, without a Miracle; for those that have endeavour'd to Burn the Ancient Laws, the Liberties, and Birth-Rights of the People, have Burnt their own Fingers, and their Days have been few, and another has taken their Office. Their Children have been Fatherless, and their Wives Widows. Their Children have been Vagabonds and Beg'd, and have sought their Bread out of Desolate Places: The Extortioner hath caught all that they had, and the Stranger hath spoiled their Labour: There hath been none to extend Mercy unto them, and their Fatherless Children have met with no Favour; their Posterity have been cut off, and in the Generations following their Names have been blotted out, because they remembred not to shew Mercy, *&c.*

But what a Consternation was *Nebuchadnezzar* in, when instead of three Men, he saw four walking in the midst of the Fire? Then could he call to *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego*, to come out of the Furnace; and when he saw that upon their Bodies the Fire had no Power, nor was an Hair of their Head singed, neither was their Coats changed, nor the smell of the Fire had passed on them; astonished at this wonderful Miracle, and convinc'd of the Almighty Power of the most High, he made a Decree, that every People, Nation, and Language, which should speak any thing against the God of *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego*, should be Cut in pieces.

One would think by this that a thorough Conversion is wrought on *Nebuchadnezzar*, but more especially when we find him in the 4th Chapter speaking to all People, Nations and Languages that dwell in all the Earth, after this manner. Verse 2. 3. *I thought it Good to shew the Signs and Wonders that God hath wrought towards me. How great are his Signs, and how mighty are his Wonders! His Kingdom is an Everlasting Kingdom, and his Dominion is from Generation to Generation.* Here you see he is come to Confession, and openly acknowledges the Power of the Almighty. Yet must he suffer for his *Arbitrary Power* Sin; for we find in the same Chapter that at the end of 12 Months, after this his Idolatry, a Voice speaks to him from Heaven, saying, *O King* Nebuchadnezzar, *to thee be it spoken, the Kingdom is departed from thee.* Verse 31. and according as the Voice had spoken, we find V. 33. *That he was driven from Men, and did eat Grass as Oxen, and his Body was wet with the Dew of Heaven, till his Hairs were grown like Eagles Feathers, and his Nails like Birds Claws.* And this has more than once been the Fate of Arbitrary Princes, who have Usurped Dominion contrary to the Laws of *God* and *Men*: They have been Banished from the Society of their own Subjects, and have been made Fugitives and *Vagabonds* upon the Earth.

Now to apply this to the Case in Hand: What s... *drach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego*, did; Did not the Peo... of *England* do before the Revolution? Did they ref... to fall down and Worship *Graven Images*? So did W... Did they boldly tell their K. they would not Wo... ship his Gods? So did we. When K. *James* Order... and Commanded the Bishops to Read a Declarati... which acknowledged a Dispensing Power with o... Laws; Did not Arch-Bishop *Sancroft*, and other B... shops, plainly tell Him they would not do it? F... which they were sent Prisoners to the *Tower* of L... *don*: And for Resisting the Will of the Prince, th... had been put into a Burning *Fiery Furnace*, or wou... have past to Heaven thro' the *Ordeal* Flames ... *Smith-Field*, had not the *Prince of Orange*, after ... Miraculous manner, come to their Deliverance ... which when King *James* saw, as *Shadrack*, *Meshe*... and *Abednego*, were call'd out of the *Burning Fi... Furnace*; so were they call'd out of the *Tower*, a... the Charter of *London* was Restor'd to the Citizen... and was this all? Did not King *James* Abdicate t... Government, and go into a Foreign Country; fro... whence, tho' he did not return, as *Nebuchadnezz...* did, to his Kingdom, *To Bless the most High*, and *Praise and Honour Him, that Liveth for ever*, whose *Dominion is an Everlasting Dominion, and His Kin... dom is from Generation to Generation*; *and all the In... habitants of the Earth are reputed as nothing, and he do... according to his Will in the Army of Heaven, and amo... the Inhabitants of the Earth, and none can stay his Ha... or say unto him, What doest thou? Ver.* 35, 35. I s... tho' King *James*, did not return after this manne... to his Deserted Kingdoms: Yet by the *Special Gra...* and *Providence* of the *Almighty*, two *Protestant* Pri... cesses of his Loins, and a *Protestant* Prince and Her... by Marriage his Son, have Sway'd the *English* Scep... since his *Abdication*; and so far the *Parallel* holds go...

But to come to Arch-Bishop *Sancrofts* Disciples, the *Ni...* and *Passive-Obedient* Gentlemen. Was their Holy Father *Pa...* when he refus'd to Read that Declaration? Was he *Passive* ... he Invited the *Prince of Orange* to *London* with an Army of ... reigners, when King *James* was yet in the Kingdom? Th... think, is Resisting both the *Will*, and the *Power* of the *Prince*... he refuse to take the Oaths to King *William* and Queen *Mary*... of *Principle*, or *Conscience*; or because he could not carry his ... ject of a *Regency*, in which he might have play'd *Rex* himself? ... a strange thing that Men should be so strait bound in some P... and so loose in others; especially when they all lie under the ... Considerations of *Conscience* and *Reason*: That Men should C... one Prince to *Abdicate* the Government, and yet Refuse to ... *Fealty* to the other they call'd in. These Doctrines of *Pa... Obedience* and *Non Resistance* have the strangest Effects u... Minds, when they lead them into Contraries, and cause an *A... peristasis* in *Principle*: Or are these Doctrines Calculated only ... the *Meridian* of the *State*, and not of the *Church*; and are th... binding only on the *Laity* and not on the *Clergy*? In good ... Honest *Country-man*, these People know not themselves what ... would be at, they will, and they will not; 'tis Right, and ... 'tis Wrong; they are Humoursome as Children, and Peevish ... Sick Monkeys, they are Blind and Deaf, and yet they w... have all Mankind see with their Eyes, and hear with their E... It now grows late, but I hope at another time we ... have an Opportunity to Discourse further on this Subject. ... wish you well Home.

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